



UNDER currents

Support the Annual Fund



We have so many things to be grateful for again this year — and chief among them is **YOU**. Thank you for your role in beginning another joyful school year. Thank you, too, to those of you who have already made a gift to the Annual Fund, which helps grow and transform.

What is the Annual Fund? Tuition keeps us open, but the Annual Fund helps us get ready to grow. Annual Fund donations are unrestricted, which makes them flexible and responsive. Over the years, these dollars have purchased our activity buses, created and upgraded the Playscape, provided professional development opportunities for staff, and, during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed us to keep our doors open and our classrooms safe by covering unexpected costs related to sanitizing, additional supplies, PPE, and more. All of these improvements are because of you and your ongoing generosity.

Gifts to the Annual Fund are also what makes our long-term plans a reality, as well as keeping the promise of Montessori education alive as we move forward together.

What size gift should I make?

Donations of every size make a huge difference, and no gift is ever too small. It takes all of us, together, to have an impact. Small gifts join larger gifts to meet our goals, so every donation makes a difference.

How can I contribute? You can donate by cash or check sent to our office, or make your gift today at paypal.me/undercroft.

Thank you for your continued support of Undercroft Montessori School and your dedication to this community. We hope you will consider making a donation that is significant to you and celebrates the value of an Undercroft education.

REMINDERS

December 16

Tuition assistance applications DUE

December 19-January 2

*Winter Break
School Closed*

January 3

*Beginning of Spring Semester
Classes Resume*

January 4

*CBC Lunch & Social
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

January 5

*Alumni Panel Night
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.*

January 10

*Board of Directors Meeting
7:00 p.m.*

January 16

*Martin Luther King Jr. Day
School Closed*

January 20

*Re-enrollment contracts available
in the parent portal*

February 1

*CBC Lunch & Social
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

February 2

*Open House & Presentation Night
6:00 p.m.*

February 6

Re-enrollment contracts DUE

February 7

*Board of Directors Meeting
7:00 p.m.*

Folks' Day

Celebrating the Rich Diversity of Undercroft Families



It was our sincere joy and pleasure to welcome families to campus for the first Folks' Day since 2019! From the bake sale and art show to the book fair and classroom activities, we hope everyone who attended took home precious memories.

TapesTree Project

This year, one of the highlights of Folks' Day was the hands-on TapesTree experience. The project asked students and their special guests to consider the question, "What makes your family unique?" Building on the idea that every family is as unique as each leaf on a tree, families wrote their responses on paper leaves and clipped them to trees set up in the common areas. The project is envisioned as a way to celebrate the richness of our Undercroft community. Please enjoy some of the answers families shared!



-  "We sing musicals at the top of our lungs!"
-  "We live communally on a farm."
-  "Our family communicates using sign language (ASL)."
-  "My family is part Ukrainian and Cherokee."
-  "I'm an only child. My parents are divorced. I have two loving homes."
-  "We own pigeons."
-  "We are a diverse family where two cultures merge into one. We enjoy playing ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS, LIZARD, SPOCK."
-  "My family helped found Indianapolis."
-  "We celebrate Hannukah and Christmas."
-  "My parents toured in a rock band."



Alumni Feature: Grayden Thomas



After attending Undercroft through eighth grade, I went to Holland Hall Prep School, where I am currently a sophomore. I have joined several clubs; right now, I'm in the debate club and hoping to help found the Mock Trial team. English and History are my favorite subjects, as they were at Undercroft. Without the skills I learned at Undercroft, I probably wouldn't be as comfortable in my classes. Middle school at Undercroft sets students up for success by helping them develop proper study skills, learn to embed their own voice into their writing, and become independent and confident. Any student who goes to Undercroft through middle school will have a significant advantage over their peers in high school, simply because they get such a head start on how to be a strong, successful student. I can't thank my guides enough for setting me up to excel in my studies. Not only does Undercroft teach its students academically, it shows them how to be critical, strong thinkers, and to be mindful of the world around them. I made so many great memories during the trips that we went on, and met so many amazing people. The adventure trips, community service activities, practical life projects — all of it was so much fun. I wouldn't trade my experiences for anything else in the world.

COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE

CBC

CBC Co-Chairs

Laura Thomas & Elizabeth Edwards

Laura.Thomas@Undercroft.org & Elizabeth.Edwards@Undercroft.org

CBC Meetings

Join the CBC for monthly meetings! Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. We meet to discuss upcoming events, answer questions, enjoy some laughs and community fellowship. See your Weekly Reminders email for instructions on joining the Zoom.

Spirit Nights

Support Undercroft while you dine or shop! Spirit Nights give back to our school when you shop or buy dinner for your family. Do you have a favorite business or own one of your own who offers benefit nights? Contact Development Director Brigid Vance at Brigid.Vance@Undercroft.org.

Save the Date: Alumni Panel

Have you ever wondered what Undercroft graduates have to say about Montessori education? Then join us for the Alumni Panel Night on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. to hear from four former Undercroft students.

The Alumni Panel Night provides an opportunity to hear directly from graduates as they reflect on the benefits of an Undercroft education, share their experiences and discuss making the transition to high school and beyond. Come with your questions and learn more about how former students transition to the next phase of their education and into the world beyond.

RSVPs are requested by Tuesday, January 3, 2023 to Lesley.Wilkin@Undercroft.org. Parents of students at any level are welcome to attend.



Meet Mr. Matt



While we bid a fond farewell to Mr. Mike, we are excited to welcome Matt Hayes as our new Upper Elementary and Middle School Music Specialist. Mr. Matt has been a professional musician for two decades and is a graduate of the New School in New York City. He has toured professionally playing bass with Las Vegas legend Wayne Newton and local favorites the Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey.

He is very passionate about music education. He previously led the satellite program at the Bartelmes Conservatory, where he taught children from kindergarten to high school. He values music and music education as essential to growing well-rounded and culturally contributing people.

Mr. Matt has two children at Undercroft: Ella in Lower Elementary North and Owen in Early Childhood Northeast. He considers teaching at Undercroft an amazing privilege and takes the student's music education just as seriously as he takes the music education of his own children.

Thank you to Mateda's Kitchen and all the Undercroft families who attended our Spirit Night on November 30!

Thank you to the Aviv/Abbou family for donating a microwave to Lower Elementary Southeast!

Thank you to Shai Kaiser and Aaru Entertainment for hosting our staff end-of-year get-together!



Winter Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to find the winter words from the list below.

- AC O O C _ _ _ _ _
- A T O C _ _ _ _ _
- R O E F Z N _ _ _ _ _
- N A M O W S N _ _ _ _ _
- T E T M N I _ _ _ _ _
- D S E L _ _ _ _ _
- C I L C I E _ _ _ _ _

Answers: COCO, COAT, FROZEN, SNOWMAN, MITTEN, SLED, ICE CREAM

Loving Learning



ADMINISTRATION

- Sydney Atchison**
Business Officer
- Nancy Davis**
Head of School
- Phil Decker**
Facilities Coordinator
- Jamie Gartside**
Admissions Coordinator
- Mike Noviski**
Facilities Assistant
- Shannon Rau**
Bookkeeper
- Brigid Vance**
Development Director
- Lesley Wilkin**
Administrative Assistant

UNDERCROFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Aaron Bean**
Nominating Chair / Crisis Response Team / TapesTree / Cyber Security Task Group
- David Daugherty**
Finance / Nominating
- Elizabeth Edwards**
CBC Co-Chair / Nominating
- Scott Ferris**
Marketing / TapesTree
- Tess Hanner**
Marketing / Policy / Crisis Response Team
- Evie Houston**
Marketing / Funds Development / HoneyFest
- Jamie Jones**
CBC / Nominating
- Zuri Jones**
CBC / TapesTree / Capital Campaign
- Shai Kaiser**
CBC / HoneyFest / TapesTree / Cyber Security Task Group
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- Robert Thomas**
President / Funds Development Chair / Crisis Response Team / Capital Campaign / Policy Chair / Marketing / Facilities / TapesTree